

Appl. No. : 10/713,549
Filed : November 14, 2003

REMARKS

By this paper, Applicant has amended Claims 2, 9, 14, 15, 16, and 18. Applicant has canceled Claims 1 and 25. Applicant previously canceled Claims 4, 23, and 24. Thus, Claims 2, 3, and 5-22 remain pending for further examination.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 6 of the office, the Examiner allowed Claims 6-8, and 19-22. In order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant has canceled independent Claims 1 and 25 (which currently stand as rejected) without prejudice to future prosecution in a continuation application. Applicant has also amended Claims 2, 9, 14, 15, 16, and 18 to depend from allowed Claim 6. As each of Claims 2, 3, 5, and 9-18 depend either directly or indirectly from allowed Claim 6, Applicant submits that Claims 2, 3, 5, and 9-18 are also allowable. Applicant thus submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and requests that the application be allowed to proceed to issuance.

Applicant notes that "[d]uring prosecution, the order of claims [has changed] and [may] be in conflict with the requirement that dependent claims refer to a preceding claim." M.P.E.P. § 608.01(n)(IV). "Accordingly, the numbering of dependent claims [e.g., Claims 2, 3, and 5,] and the number of preceding claims referred to in dependent claims should be carefully checked when claims are renumbered upon allowance." *Id.*

If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call the undersigned. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: December 19, 2005

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